(c) what are the prospects of locating of CBM gas in this area; and

(d) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) One Coal Bed Methane (CBM) block measuring 410 sq. km., situated in the north of Barmer District of the State of Rajasthan, was offered under the first round of CBM bidding. There was only one bid and it was decided not to award this block.

(b) CBM is a eco-friendly clean fuel consisting mainly of methane gas and can be used for the same purposes as the natural gas, such as feed stock for fertilizer plants and as fuel for power generation and for industrial units.

(c) and (d) While thick lignite seams with good CBM shows have been encountered in Barmer and Jaisalmer basins usually denoting fairly good prospects, commerciality of CBM in the area is not determinable at this juncture.

Supply of HSD at concessional rate to SRTUs

3350. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received for supply of High Speed Diesel at concessional and fixed rates to State Road Transport Undertakings;

(b) if so, whether Government have worked out any plan to supply HSD to State Road Transport Undertakings at subsidised rates;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor keeping in view very weak financial position of SRTUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) With dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1 st April, 2002, the price of diesel has been decontrolled. The oil marketing companies are now fixing the price of diesel after taking into account the prevalent international oil prices. Thus, the variations in the international oil prices are likely to be reflected in the domestic prices

of diesel. Further, the selling price of diesel vary from state to state mainly because of differences in the freight element and in the rates of taxes levied by various State Governments.

Fire in Gas Pipelines

3351. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places and number of times, incidents of fire in gas pipelines took place during the last two years;

(b) the details of loss of life and property due to recurrence of incidents of fire; and

(c) the- details of steps Government are going to take to keep a check on the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) During the last two years, *i.e.* 2001 -02 and 2002-03, thirteen (13) incidents of fire took place in gas pipelines of GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL), Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) and Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL). Details about names of the places, dates of accidents and loss of life & property are given in the Statement *{See* below).

(c) Some of the steps taken by these companies to avoid such incidents are as under:-

(i) Installing Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA) by GAIL to monitor all gas flow parameters.

(ii) Fixing pipeline markers along the pipeline routes for proper identification.

(iii) Giving pipeline route maps to concerned State Governments and Municipal Corporations so as to avoid damages by external agencies while carrying out other jobs along the pipeline route.

(iv) Petrolling of pipelines regularly.

(v) Injecting odorant in the pipeline to help detection of leakage of gas.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.